

NOTES ON BIRDS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

JOHN WILLIAMS, ST. MARKS, FLA.

(Continued from December, 1919, Wilson Bulletin)

68. *Philohela minor*—Woodcock.

I have no breeding records, July, 1918, being the earliest date noted. During the winter of 1915-16 it was with us more abundantly than usual.

69. *Gallinago delicata*—Wilson's Snipe.

A regular winter visitor and at times found in considerable numbers on the open marshes and borders of bayous and streams. The bulk of the vernal flight usually occurs in early April. October 7, 1915, May 9, 1916, September 12, 1917.

70. *Macrorhamphus griseus griseus*—Dowitcher.

At times abundant and usually to be found during the winter, along shore, in considerable numbers on bars and sand-flats. This as well as the following species assumes the breeding plumage while here. September 22, 1917, June 6, 1915.

71. *Macrorhamphus griseus scolopaceus*—Long-billed Dowitcher.

Associates with the preceding and other littorals during the winter. April 27, 1918, I found them quite numerous.

72. *Tringa canutus*—Knot.

I have only identified it here casually, but may have failed to recognize it at other times. February 10, 1915, October 9, 1916, May 22, 1913.

73. *Pisobia maculata*—Pectoral Sandpiper.

Seemingly not abundant. September 24, 1913.

74. *Pisobia minutilla*—Least Sandpiper.

Occur along shore in flocks of one hundred or more, resorting to the bars at low water and back on the sand flats as the bars become covered. Not infrequently found singly or in small groups at the border of a pond or stream at some distance from the Bay. August 9, 1917, May 28, 1916.

75. *Pelidna alpina sakhalina*—Red-backed Sandpiper.

One of our abundant littorals during the winter. The summer plumage is assumed here before their flight northward. August 9, 1917, May 26, 1919.

76. *Ereunetes pusillus*—Semipalmated Sandpiper.

Dense flocks of the "Peeps" turn, wheel and glisten over the sand flats and marshes as they come in from the bars or take flight on alarm. After a few times they settle down close to some bunch of larger kindred or run along in the shallow pools gleaning in dusteriously. August 9, 1917, June 11, 1919.

77. *Ereunetes mauri*—Western Sandpiper.

Probably a common winter resident, but as I had failed to recognize it until recently it has not been separated from *E. pusillus*. June 11, 1919.

78. *Calidris leucophæa*—Sanderling.

I have not found it numerous on our coast in winter. May 22, 1912.

79. *Totanus melanoleucus*—Greater Yellow-legs.

Winter resident. Usually found in small bunches only and generally with allied species. October 16, 1915, April 11, 1915.

80. *Totanus flavipes*—Yellow-legs.

Winter resident. Decidedly more numerous than the preceding. September 20, 1915, April 21, 1917.

81. *Helodromas solitarius solitarius*—Solitary Sandpiper.

Migrant. Found generally about inland streams, ponds and pools rather than along shore. They are absent but for a brief period during the breeding season. July 28, 1916, August 7, 1917, May 11, 1917, October 12, 1915.

82. *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*—Willet.

We have but few places adapted to the requirements of the Willet for nesting, but where they prevail these birds are found each year and seem to maintain their numbers without much if any increase. They are loud, vehement and audacious in protesting an intruder, timidity seemingly no part of their character. May 21, 1913. Young but two or three days old. March 15, 1915. They depart southward in October.

83. *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*—Western Willet.

Mr. Ludlow Griscom records two at East Goose Creek on December 29, 1915. Bird-Lore, January-February, 1916. R. W. Williams, Esq., noted four at the same locality between November 16 and 24, 1917. They are probably casual or regular winter visitors.

84. *Bartramia longicauda*—Upland Plover.

Migrant. While not found with us in abundance a few resort to our more open marshes and low grounds annually. I have no fall records. March 23, 1914, May 6, 1915.

85. *Actitis macularia*—Spotted Sandpiper.

A regular summer dweller, frequenting river shores, ponds and the coast as well. Usually but three or four are seen together, but at times twenty-five to thirty or more may associate. I have no winter records.

86. *Numenius hudsonicus*—Hudsonian Curlew.

Probably occurs regularly as a migrant in small numbers. September 24, 1917, May 19, 1919.

87. *Squatarola squatarola*—Black-bellied Plover.

Winter resident. They seem quite irregular as to their appearance and abundance. January 30, 1914, eight or ten seen. April 11, 1915, forty to fifty in a flock with other species. September 22, 1917, earliest date for arrival. Some individuals assume breeding plumage here. May 26, 1919, three seen.

88. *Oxyechus vociferus*—Killdeer.

Quite generally distributed and frequently to be seen from fall until spring. October 5, 1916, April 6, 1915.

99. *Aegialitis semipalmata*—Semipalmated Plover.

I have only seen it in small numbers. September 30, 1917, May 7, 1917. I have no winter records.

90. *Ochthodromus wilsonius*—Wilson's Plover.

Summer resident. With us it frequents the same localities with the Willets, but nesting on the bare shell ridges. Extremely solicitous for the safety of their young. Several pairs are found nesting as a colony. April 26, fresh eggs.

91. *Arenaria interpres morinella*—Ruddy Turnstone.

Migrant. A few to be found each season along shore. I have never found them numerous nor other than in small bunches. Not generally associated with other species. September 12, 1913, June 5, 1913. I have not found it here in winter. Mr. Ludlow Griscom saw four at East Goose Creek, in this county, December 29, 1915. Bird-Lore, January-February, 1916.

92. *Hematopus palliatus*—Oyster-catcher.

This striking bird is no longer common on our shores. In fact the oldest fishermen only know it as of rare occurrence formerly. One was seen in the late summer of 1913.

93. *Colinus virginianus virginianus*—Bob-white.

Despite pump guns and automatics this vigorous all-round sport manages to hold his own here when weather conditions are favorable for the very young birds. Eggs are deposited about the middle of May. While our bird is smaller than specimens taken farther north they are not referred to the *C. V. floridanus* form.

94. *Melcagris gallopavo silvestris*—Wild Turkey.

Were I to tell of the actual abundance of this species in our county I doubt if the facts would be credited. With good dry weather in May and early June, while the chicks are tender, we are sure to have excellent turkey hunting during the succeeding season.

95. *Ectopistes migratorius*—Passenger Pigeon.

Within the memory of several of our older inhabitants these birds occurred in great numbers at regular intervals.

96. *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*—Mourning Dove.

Doves are with us in but limited numbers during the nesting

season, but as the weather gets cooler they come in flocks and glean from the fields and forests.

97. *Chæmepelia passerina passerina*—Ground Dove.

Perhaps much of our country is too low for the comfort of this dainty little Dove. At any rate, for some reason we do not have them nearly so abundant as they are found farther inland and much farther north. Local name, "Mourning Dove."

98. *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*—Turkey Vulture.

Despite needless prejudice against this bird even a casual observer must admire his wonderful power of flight, and but for their habits of feeding we of the South at least might often suffer for the lack of their good offices. Such prejudice holders are to be classed with the killers of all snakes and the shooting of many of our insectivorous birds "for sport."

99. *Catharista uruba*—Black Vulture.¹

Of our two species of Vultures this is the rather more numerous except directly along shore, where it seldom appears. The two species do not freely associate generally either in soaring or feeding. Young are hatched early in April.

100. *Elanoides forficatus*—Swallow-tailed Kite.

A few of these beautiful birds are to be seen every season and one or two pairs usually nest in our neighborhood. April 14, 1918, one seen carrying nesting material. Local name, "Forked-tail Fishing Hawk."

101. *Ictinia mississippiensis*—Mississippi Kite.

Of regular occurrence as a breeding species, but never numerous except at the time of spring migration, when sometimes eight or ten may be associated. They are vigorous and graceful in flight.

102. *Circus hudsonius*—Marsh Hawk.

I have no record for the "Rabbit Hawk" in our county, but the dates might indicate such a record. They occur most plentifully in the cooler seasons. April 8, 1918, May 3, 1914, March 14, 1916, September 14, 1915.

103. *Accipiter velox*—Sharp-shinned Hawk.

The "Blue Darter" is a terror to our Quail and small birds generally and is a well known resident bird of the whole district under consideration.

104. *Accipiter cooperi*—Cooper's Hawk.

Probably somewhat less numerous here than the Sharp-shinned Hawk. Their habits and distribution are similar.

105. *Buteo borealis borealis*—Red-tailed Hawk.

Resident. The "Big Chicken Hawk" (misnomer) is but sparingly distributed throughout the county. Unfortunately their cog-

¹See A Vulture Census and Some Notes, Wilson Bulletin, Sept. 1908.

nomen has created prejudice and too frequently they are destroyed without cause or reason.

106. *Buteo lineatus alleni*—Florida Red-shouldered Hawk.

Resident. Found on our marshes and in the vicinity of branches and ponds. They subsist largely on rabbits, snakes, frogs and rats. Local name, "Chicken Hawk." March 9, 1914, nest with fresh eggs.

107. *Buteo platypterus*—Broad-winged Hawk.

Resident. While not so nearly abundant as either of the "Chicken Hawks" a few of these quiet-mannered birds may be seen each year. June 14, 1913, old bird carrying food.

108. *Buteo brachyurus*—Short-tailed Hawk.

The record by Mr. C. J. Pennock, of a nest with one egg, from this county, remains our complete history as far as I know.

109. *Haliaetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*—Bald Eagle.

Several pairs of Eagles nest within the limits of our county. February 7, 1914, a nest contained young apparently but a few days old. January 24, 1915, another nest had two young almost fully fledged. December 11, 1916, nest with two eggs nearly hatched.

110. *Falco peregrinus anatum*—Duck Hawk.

No doubt a few of these bold marauders occur along shore each winter. The fishermen and Duck hunters tell of a swift flying Hawk that overtakes flying Ducks. I noted one October 9, 1916.

111. *Falco columbarius columbarius*—Pigeon Hawk.

I have not recognized it in the county. R. W. Williams, Esq., noted it at East Goose Creek November 16-24, 1917 (Auk, Jan. 1919).

112. *Falco sparverius sparverius*—Sparrow Hawk.

I had supposed all our Sparrow Hawks to be of this form, but with the recognition of *F. s. paulus* here I can only surmise, for the present at least, that *F. s. sparverius* is a common winter resident.

113. *Falco sparverius paulus*—Little Sparrow Hawk.

Dr. Oberholser has identified a breeding bird from St. Marks as of this species.

114. *Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*—Osprey.

During the most of November and in December and January these birds almost entirely absent themselves from our district. For the remainder of the year they are widely distributed and nest near the coast, back in the timbered swamps and at the border of ponds far inland. With us they usually select a large tall tree for a nesting site. February 6, 1919, November 2, 1917.

115. *Aluco pratincola*—Barn Owl.

They doubtless are with us regularly throughout the year as

I frequently hear of *white* Owls being seen, but I have met with them but rarely.

116. *Asio flammeus*—Short-eared Owl.

Crows pestering one on a river marsh December 5, 1913, constitutes my only record.

117. *Strix varia alleni*—Florida Barred Owl.

Resident. Numerous wherever the timber is fairly heavy, and particularly along river bottoms. Fiddler crabs seem to be a favorite food for them.

118. *Otus asio floridanus*—Florida Screech Owl.

Resident. They become more numerous a few miles back from the coast. About Wakulla and Medart I have found them more abundant than at St. Marks.

119. *Bubo virginianus virginianus*—Great Horned Owl.

Resident. Not nearly so abundant about St. Marks as is the Florida Barred Owl. The reverse is said to be the case a few miles back from the coast and larger rivers.

120. *Conuropsis carolinensis*—Carolina Paroquet.

It has been many years since this bird has been seen in our county. The older citizens recall its occurrence. Major Bendire, in his magnificent work. Vol. II, p. 5, records their having nested abundantly here.

121. *Coccyzus americanus americanus*—Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Frequents the more open country and thickets about ponds and streams. April 12, 1914, May 2, 1919, fresh eggs.

122. *Ceryle alcyon*—Belted Kingfisher.

Resident. Generally distributed, but in small numbers.

123. *Campephilus principalis*—Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

Mr. John Linton knew the bird as fairly common in the heavy swamps of Taylor County, Florida, prior to 1888. Following that date, for a few years after his removal to Wakulla County, he occasionally saw them in the wilder river swamps of this county.

124. *Dryobates villosus auduboni*—Southern Hairy Woodpecker.

Found sometimes in open pine woods, but more commonly in timber along rivers and streams. Resident. Common.

125. *Dryobates pubescens pubescens*—Southern Downy Woodpecker.

The smallest of our Woodpeckers, is generally distributed and quite numerous. Young just hatched May 20, 1914.

126. *Dryobates borealis*—Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

Resident. This bird is far more numerous in the higher dry pine lands back from the coast than it is in the low flat woods. In the upper parts of the county it is the most abundant Woodpecker. Nest usually, if not always, in a living tree.

127. *Sphyrapicus varius varius*—Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

A regular but not an abundant winter visitor. October 18, 1914, March 26, 1914.

128. *Phlæotomus pileatus pileatus*—Pileated Woodpecker.

Resident. Found quite abundantly in the heavy timbered tracts in particular, along the larger streams. At times they come out into the open pine woods on long slow wing-beats in a level flight-line in marked contrast to the movements of the other members of this family. Local names, "Good God" and "Wood Cady."

127. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*—Red-headed Woodpecker.

Resident. Close along the coast we seldom see this bird, but as soon as one reaches the higher, dry sand lands they become numerous. At St. Marks they are rare; at Wakulla, six miles inland, they are numerous.

130. *Centurus carolinus*—Red-bellied Woodpecker.

About St. Marks this is our most abundant Woodpecker. In the higher lands it gives way to the Red-head. Local name, "Cham chack."

131. *Colaptes auratus auratus*—Flicker.

A regular but not abundant resident. June 1, 1917, young in nest almost ready for flight.

132. *Colaptes auratus luteus*—Northern Flicker.

Flickers become numerous with us in September and so remain until March. The influx are probably of this form mainly. Dr. Oberholser identified specimens taken March 17, 1917, and March 10, 1919, as *C. a. luteus*.

133. *Antrostomus carolinensis*—Chuck-will's-widow.

Our "Whip-poor-will" makes himself known at nightfall very soon after his arrival from the South, but after July they are seldom heard. They frequent the low woods and in the vicinity of streams and ponds. March 27, 1914, September 24, 1915. Two fresh eggs April 16, 1914.

134. *Antrostomus vociferus vociferus*—Whip-poor-will.

Probably occur more frequently during the cooler season than might be surmised as they are silent while with us and frequent low, thickly grown woods. My records extend only from Christmas day, 1916, until February 2, 1917.

135. *Chordeiles virginianus chapmani*—Florida Nighthawk.

From early April until the nights grow cool these valuable gleaners are quite numerous with us. Flocking after the nesting season they are frequently to be seen making a regular round in search of food for an hour or more preceding dark and they are a-wing in the early morning until almost sunup. Local name, "Bull Bat." May 6, 1914, eggs nearly hatching. April 9, 1914, October 3, 1917.

136. *Chaetura pelagica*—Chimney Swift.

A rather unusual summer visitor about St. Marks. Farther inland more numerous, but I have not found it abundant at any place in our county. Local name, "Bat" and "Chimney Bat." March 31, 1915, September 17, 1914, October 22, 1917.

137. *Archilocus colubris*—Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

While never occurring in numbers we have this dainty sprite regularly during the warmer months. April 3, 1915, October 8, 1915.

BLUEBIRD MIGRATIONS — 1917.

BY HOWARD CLARK BROWN

On March thirteenth, 1917, there appeared in the Charles City Daily Press of Charles City, Iowa, a notice that the Califor Naturalist Club of that city had established a bird bureau. The notice read that the Naturalist club, in order that it might know when the various spring birds arrived that year, had established a bird bureau to which all information concerning birds might be reported. It was felt that if all observers would only report their observations to a single compiling bureau much might be accomplished in learning the routes of migration and the time of first arrivals, etc., which would else be lost. The plan had been adopted because each year the club had felt the need for some sort of concentration of just such material as came to them from varied sources at all manner of inconvenient times. And thus it happened that two members of the organization took it upon themselves to keep the records for the community. The telephone numbers of these two members were published in the daily paper and all sorts of birds notes were asked for. The result was astonishing. It was found that the responses from every side were unusually eager. Since that date of establishment of the bureau, each year has seen an added interest in its work, and each year has added new observers. Hundreds of bird notes have been reported to the bureau. As yet, no single printed record has been issued to tell of the